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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,669	01/11/2002	Alfonso Losada	SAS/33	8368
498	7590	07/17/2006	EXAMINER	
JAMES R. CYPHER 405 14TH STREET SUITE 1607 OAKLAND, CA 94612				SAETHER, FLEMMING
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				3677

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/043,669	LOSADA, ALFONSO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Flemming Saether	3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-52 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,7,13,17,18,24 and 26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,3-5,8-12,14-16,19-23,25,27,28,31-34,39-41 and 44-48 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 29,30,35-38,42,43 and 49-52 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 June 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 6, 7, 13, 17, 18, 24 and 26 remain in the application as having been non-elected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-12, 14, 16, 19, 25, 27, 31-33, 39, 40 and 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pfaff (US 2,961,210). Pfaff discloses a fastener assembly (31) comprising a plate (81) having a bearing surface (the lower surface of the plate) with an extending portion located opposite an uninterrupted groove (89, 90) formed in the top surface which extend the length of the plate and are capable of providing a guide means and; a stud (15) is held within the plate capable of being received in a nail gun and having a pointed end extending below the bearing surface. The plate further includes an attachment leg (33) and raised portion (63) which is capable of collapsing (at 66 or 86) to contribute to the bearing surface. The raised portion begin shown cylindrical in the vertical direction. In regards to claim 31, 32, 44 and 45 where the raised portion is not required to collapse and there is no required attachment leg, the raised portion is read as the portion labeled 33 which includes the grooves.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-12, 14-16, 20-13, 25, 27, 28, 33, 34, 39-41, 46 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Losada (WO 98/47668).

Applicant's prior publication discloses a fastener assembly feeding system comprising a plurality of unattached plates (318) each having a bearing surface (the upper surface of the plate) with an extending portion located opposite an uninterrupted groove (shown at where elements 382 are located in Fig. 13) formed in the "top" surface which extend the length of the plate and provide a guide means mating with a portion formed on a track (316). The plates further include an attachment leg (at 360) which extends in a plane parallel to the grooves and a stud (336) is held within the plate being received in a nail gun and having a pointed end extending below the bearing surface. A raised portion is shown as the conical portion which engages the stud which is collapsed upon driving the stud to contribute to the bearing surface.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Losada as applied to claim 16, 46 and 47 above, and further in view of Pfaff. Losada does not disclose the raised portion as being cylindrical. Pfaff discloses a similar device and includes cylindrical raised portion (at 63 in the vertical direction). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the device of Losada with a cylindrical shaped raised portion as disclosed in

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Pfaff because the cylindrical shaped raised portion would better retain the stud by having more surface area for its engagement.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 29, 30, 35-38, 42, 43 and 49-52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Remarks

Applicant's remarks have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

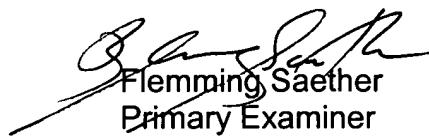
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Flemming Saether whose telephone number is 571-272-7071. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Flemming Saether
Primary Examiner
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